United Nations A/C.4/70/L.8

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 October 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 51
Assistance in mine action

Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/72 of 11 December 2013 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recalling also all relevant treaties and conventions[1] and their review processes,

Noting with appreciation the extent to which the tenth anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was commemorated worldwide on 4 April 2015,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by mines and explosive remnants of war,[2] in affected countries, which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of such countries, and negatively affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance,

[1] These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

[2] As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.

Please recycle

Bearing in mind the serious humanitarian threat that mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, pose, in affected countries, to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and mine clearance programmes and operations,

Deeply alarmed by the still very large, albeit decreasing, number of mines and areas of square kilometres contaminated by them, as well as the growing number of explosive remnants of war, as a result of armed conflicts, and therefore remaining convinced of the necessity and urgency of strengthening mine action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat and the humanitarian impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war to civilians as soon as possible,

Recognizing the humanitarian threat posed by improvised explosive devices following conflict,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations plays a significant role in the field of assistance in mine action, in particular through the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018 by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,[3] chaired by the United Nations Mine Action Service at working level, considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation the cooperation and coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders through meetings of the Committee on Mine Action,[4] and its active involvement in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, such as the Global Protection Cluster, and encouraging further enhancement of that cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of the full involvement and equal opportunities for participation of both women and men in mine action programmes,

Recognizing also the valuable mine action efforts of national, regional and international mine action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, and also experts from relevant non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, enabling local communities and mine survivors to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

---

[3] Consisting of the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank.

[4] The Committee on Mine Action is an informal information-sharing forum. The members are the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and academic institutions.

Noting with appreciation national, regional and subregional efforts, including the African Union Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework 2014-2017,

Noting with satisfaction the growing inclusion of mine action in humanitarian appeals,

Stressing the pressing humanitarian need that exists when non-State actors deploy mines, improvised explosive devices and other associated explosive devices,

Noting the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and the elaboration of a Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, including the creation of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to implement the Strategy, as well as the updating of the United Nations victim assistance policy, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work to improve the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, including through South-South, regional and subregional cooperation, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, upon request and as appropriate and in coordination with the affected country, to foster the establishment and development of national mine action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population or an impediment to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels;

3. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, upon request and as appropriate, by providing:

(a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war, including abandoned explosive ordnance, for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including, where appropriate, in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries;

(b) Support for national programmes, where appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men;

(c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

[5] A/70/207.

(d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, improvised explosive devices, booby traps, other devices and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war; and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technology that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

4. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help to facilitate mine action activities;

5. *Urges* all mine-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and other explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

6. *Encourages* mine-affected States, with support from relevant United Nations agencies and development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action, including victim assistance requirements and their linkage with health care and disabilities agendas, into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action, including victim assistance requirements, is predictably funded;

7. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender- and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities;

8. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account risk education, the specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities and are gender- and age-sensitive, so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, as well as the further participation of women, in the programming of mine action;

9. *Urges* States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, and to take measures to spare the civilian population consistent with the principles of international humanitarian law;

10. *Encourages* States to support victims' access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities and to provide those services to all, regardless of gender, age or socioeconomic status;

11. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other entities with expertise in those matters;

12. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action and of devoting existing resources, as appropriate, to that end, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations, with the United Nations Mine Action Service as the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, and other relevant organizations in that regard;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, when appropriate, in ceasefire and peace agreements as well as in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate, in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018;

15. *Encourages* those States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies, as well as transparency and accountability;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".